

2006 HOLIDAY/EVENTS CLOSINGS

Saturday, December 31 through Monday, January 2—New Year’s holiday

Friday, January 13 through Monday, January 16—Lee-Jackson-King holidays

Saturday, February 18 through Monday, February 2—President’s Day

Saturday, May 13—Foundation Event

Monday, May 29—Memorial Day

Tuesday, July 4—Independence Day

Saturday, September 2 through Monday, September 4—Labor Day holiday

Saturday, October 7 through Monday, October 9—Columbus Day holiday

Saturday, October 21—Closing at noon for Literary Awards event

Friday, November 10—Veterans Day

Thursday, November 23 through Saturday, November 25—Thanksgiving holiday

Saturday, December 23 through Monday, December 25—Christmas holiday

Saturday, December 30, 2005 through Monday, January 1, 2007—New Year’s holidays

PLEASE CHECK THE LIBRARY’S WEB SITE

[HTTP://WWW.LVA.LIB.VA.US/WHOWEARE/EVENTS/HOLIDAY_CAL.ASP](http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whoweare/events/holiday_cal.asp)
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State Archivist Conley L. Edwards and Mark Walsh, records and information analyst, inspect a box of records from Governor Warner’s Office of Constituent Affairs. The files represent some of the first records transferred to the Library of Virginia from the Warner administration. At the end of a governor’s administration, all records that meet the definition of archival public record are transferred to the Library of Virginia for permanent preservation and access for the citizens, officials and historians of the Commonwealth for generations to come.



THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Issue 171 • September/October 2005

Official Newsletter

2005

LITERARY AWARDS

(at right) Carrie Brown;
(middle, l-r) Abigail Stone, daughter of Ruth Stone, Peggy Stillman, Merrill Peterson, James W. Morrison, Dean King, and David Baldacci;
(bottom photo) Mel Ely



BROWN, ELY AND STONE RECEIVE LITERARY AWARDS

PEGGY STILLMAN AND MERRILL PETERSON RECOGNIZED

The Library of Virginia is pleased to announce the winners of the 8th Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards. This year’s awards celebration, held at the Library in Richmond on October 15, was hosted by award-winning Virginia author Donald McCaig, who won the 1999 Library of Virginia Award for Fiction for his Civil War novel *Jacob’s Ladder*. Awards categories were fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and literary lifetime achievement. The Library of Virginia Foundation also recognized an outstanding individual with the Semper Virginia Society Award at the event. Winners of the Library of Virginia’s Annual Literary Awards and the People’s Choice Awards receive a \$1,000 prize and a handsome, engraved crystal book.

Carrie Brown is the recipient of the fiction prize for *Confinement*, her novel about love and loss told through the experience of an Austrian Jew who emigrated to the United States following World War II. Brown teaches creative writing at Sweet Briar College in Amherst County. She is the winner of a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award, the 2001 Great Lakes Booksellers Association Award for Fiction, and the 2001 Library of Virginia Literary Award for Fiction.

“With its luminous language and an ending more sweet than bitter,” one critic has written, “this poignant, richly layered novel is something exceptional.”

Aaron Gilchrist, co-anchor of Richmond’s “NBC12 News Today” and “NBC12 News at Noon,” recognized the three finalists and the honorable mention for the fiction award and presented the fiction prize to Brown. The other fiction finalists were *How I Left the Great State of Tennessee* and *Went On to Better Things* by Joe Jackson and *A Year and a Day* by Leslie Pietrzyk. *Enchanted Heart* by Felicia Mason received an honorable mention in the fiction category.

Lisa LaFata Powell, journalist and community volunteer, presented the 2005 Literary Award for the best work of

Nonfiction to Melvin Patrick Ely for *Israel on the Appomattox*. Powell recognized the finalists for the prize and the two honorable mention books. The other finalists for the nonfiction prize were *His Excellency: George Washington* by Joseph J. Ellis and *Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma* by Camilla Townsend. Earning honorable mentions were *Sir William Berkeley and the Forging of Colonial Virginia* by Warren Billings and *Scandal at Bizarre* by Cynthia Kierner. “Selecting a winner from among these entries was indeed a challenge,” said Powell.

Ely, a native of Richmond, is Newton Family Professor of History and Black Studies at the College of William and Mary. *Israel on the Appomattox* tells the story of a community of African American men and women freed by their master, Richard Randolph, following his death in 1796.

“Ely’s story is so rich and compelling—and so persuasively documented,” the *Washington Post* has proclaimed, “that it is sure to leave its mark on Southern history for years to come.” *Israel on the Appomattox* was named a Best Book of 2004 by the *Washington Post Book World* and was awarded the 2005 Bancroft Prize in American History.

Ron Smith, former Literary Award judge and recent recipient of the inaugural Carole Weinstein Prize in Poetry, presented the Library of Virginia Literary Award for the best work of poetry. Roanoke native Ruth Stone was honored with the poetry award for *In the Dark*, which alludes to the author’s failing eyesight, but is not at all a dark book. Her daughter, Abigail Stone, accepted the award for her mother.

Smith acknowledged the two other poetry finalists—*American Smooth: Poems* by Rita Dove and *Buffalo Yoga* by Charles Wright. The honor poetry book was *Insomnia Diary* by Bob Hicok.

Stone is the author of 11 books of poetry, with an edition of her collected poems forthcoming soon. She has ...see **Awards**, pg. 2



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WEEK NOVEMBER 28–
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SHOP HOURS: MON–FRI 10 AM–4 PM
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LIMITED, FREE PARKING AVAILABLE
FOR VIRGINIA SHOP PATRONS

Metalcrafters Monday—November 28
J. Chris Park and Michael J. Innes, the proprietors of Virginia Metalcrafters will be in the Virginia Shop all day and customers will receive a 25–30% discount on the entire Virginia Metalcrafters line including special orders.

Deck the Halls Tuesday—November 29
Susan Hight Rountree, author of *Christmas Decorations from Williamsburg*, will conduct a holiday decorating workshop at noon. Reservations required, call 804-692-3517.

Virginia Writer Wednesday—November 30
William Hoffman, a prolific Virginia author, will discuss and sign copies of his latest novel, *Lies*, at noon in the conference rooms of the Library of Virginia.

Toe Tappin' Thursday—December 1
A full day of musical activities starts at noon with

“Virginia Roots Music: A Celebration,” a multimedia lecture by Gregg Kimball featuring images and recorded and live music. The festivities continue with a traditional music workshop from 3:00 to 5:30 PM. The day concludes with a concert from 6:00 to 8:00 PM featuring Mark Campbell, the Paschall Brothers, and Jeffrey Scott. Note: Reservations are required for the workshop and concert. Please contact Gregg Kimball at 804-692-3722 for more information about **Toe Tappin' Thursday**.

Food Festival Friday—December 2
We will spotlight fine Virginia cuisine with gift ideas from the kitchen and a 20% discount on all cookbooks. Mary Angela Morgan, longtime Richmond resident and author of *Mary Angela's Best of Everything*, will discuss and sign her book at noon in the conference rooms. Reservations required, call 804-692-3517.

Awards... taught creative writing across the United States, from the State University of New York at Binghamton to the University of California at Davis, and now lives in Vermont. Stone is the recipient of many awards and honors, among them the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the Eric Mathieu King Award from the Academy of American Poets.

Colleen Curran, Virginia author and executive director of James River Writers, presented the People's Choice Awards, which are cosponsored by the Library of Virginia and the James River Writers, a non-profit Richmond-based writers' organization. The winners of the People's Choice Award were *Hour Game* by David Baldacci in the fiction category and *Skeletons on the Zahara* by Dean King in the nonfiction category. The finalists for these awards are selected by a panel of independent Virginia booksellers from the list of books nominated for the Library's literary awards. Winners are decided by readers voting online and in bookstores and libraries.

Robert Vaughan, Library of Virginia Foundation member and president of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, presented the Literary Lifetime Achievement Award to Merrill Peterson. Peterson is best known for his extensive scholarship on Thomas Jefferson and his world. The author and editor of more than 30 books, he has written authoritatively on a wide variety of topics in political and intellectual history ranging from the Revolutionary era through the American Civil War. A native of Kansas, Peterson has taught at Harvard, Brandeis, and Princeton universities and, since 1962, at the University of Virginia where he was for

25 years the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation Professor of History.

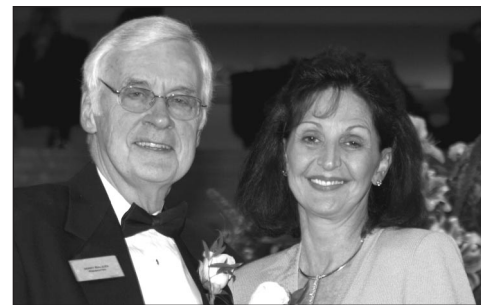
In presenting the award to Peterson, Vaughan said, “The literary award judges this year could think of no one in Virginia who has done more to educate and inform us about our past, no one whose corpus of work is more deserving to stand with past winners such as Ellen Glasgow, Edgar Allan Poe, George Garrett, or Mary Lee Settle than Merrill Peterson.”

Former Governor of Virginia Gerald L. Baliles presented the Semper Virginia Society Award to Margaret “Peggy” Stillman. The award recognizes an individual or an organization that has provided extraordinary support of libraries and literature in a broad sense, not just support of a specific library, including the Library of Virginia.

Stillman is an effective advocate and tireless worker on behalf of education, citizenship and culture and an ardent advocate of reading and lifelong learning. She has spent more than 30 years building an extraordinary library system in her home community of Chesapeake.

In recognizing Stillman, Baliles said, “Since 1986, when I first appointed Peggy to serve on the Library Board, she has devoted countless hours to this institution where she has made a lasting impact. She has chaired the boards of both the Library of Virginia and the Library of Virginia Foundation. In fact, she was a driving force behind this beautiful building in which we celebrate tonight.”

For more information about the Library of Virginia's Annual Literary Awards visit <www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwedo/awards/index.htm>.



MORE FROM THE 2005 LITERARY AWARDS

(top) Former Governor Gerald Baliles and Peggy Stillman, recipient of the Semper Virginia Award; (above left) Host Donald McCaig welcomes guests to the Celebration; (above right) Aaron Gilchrist, co-anchor of “NBC12 News Today” and “NBC12 News at Noon,” and guest Elizabeth Meggs; (below) Library of Virginia Foundation Board members Sallie Belle Benedetti and Carmen Foster



Brock... In some cases, this requires enhancing the Huntington's already existing catalog record with additional notes and details about the principal participants and events. In other cases, as the large collection has posed many challenges in grappling with its organization, the Library's Archival Description Services team creates significantly expanded catalog entries. Because of the Brock Collection's sheer scope and size, other portions have never been cataloged beyond the most basic level. These sub-collections in particular offer truly new opportunities for research as the new descriptive online records will lead researchers to aspects of the Brock Collection few researchers have even considered, much less used.

This represents a great deal of work, at both the Huntington Library and at the Library of Virginia. Last year alone, for example, the project generated 173 reels, not including the duplicate copies. And thus far, within less than two years, the Library has added to its online catalog 142 sub-collections—ranging from one reel to as many as seven or eight apiece. To review the remarkably varied collections available to date from the Library's Web site <<http://www.lva.lib.va.us>>, select “What We Have,” then “Archives and Manuscript Catalog.” You may then search the Brock Collection by its accession number, 41008.

The list is, in a word, extraordinary. You will find, for example, business records for the James River and Kanawha Company (1840–1878); for the Richmond-based Piedmont and Arlington Life Insurance Company for 1867–1908; of Richmond jeweler Mitchell & Tyler (1849–1878); of Philadelphia publisher Carey & Hart (1829–1852); for Lynchburg merchants Black & Boyce (1812–1823); for Brand & Oliver, merchants in Caroline and Hanover counties, for 1786–1845; and for Petersburg's Freeland and Gillies (1784–1806). Military-related collections include correspondence and other materials concerning Confederate hospitals, records of Company F of the 21st Virginia Infantry, U.S. Army records (1865–1869) for the Department of Virginia, and correspondence (1780–1782) of William Davies as Commissioner of the Virginia War Office.

There is much more, including records of Virginia's Board of Trade for 1779–1781, the state Treasurer's Office (1764–1789), the Hanover County Circuit Court (1750–1868), the Washington National Monument Society (1833–1867), and for Richmond's Lancasterian School (1822–1857). Personal papers are in abundance, with collections for Benjamin Harrison (primarily 1779–1783), George Mason (1771–1785), Joseph Reid Anderson (1846–1896), Herman Bóye (1811–1838), Fitzhugh Lee (with most within the 1885–1889 period), and the Ruffin family (1811–1892).

And these examples represent only 22 of the 142 collections already available. Please enjoy exploring the Brock Collection entries in the Library's manuscript catalog, especially the marvelous opportunity to study the collections in detail, either in the Library's Reading Room or through Interlibrary Loan. Researchers are also encouraged to check the online catalog periodically, as new collections are added frequently.

—submitted by Edward D. C. Campbell, Jr.,
Collection Management Services

(at left) Tom Camden, director of Special Collections at the Library of Virginia, shows one of the Library's treasures to Capitol guides and Mansion docents. For more information about individual and group walking tours of Capitol Square, please see the Virginia General Assembly Web site at <<http://legis.state.va.us/capitol tours/capitol tours.htm>>, or call 804-698-1788. To schedule a tour of Virginia's Executive Mansion, call 804-371-8687 or e-mail <executivemansion@governor.virginia.gov>.

MORGAN AND SMITH RECEIVE WEINSTEIN PRIZE IN POETRY

Richmond poets Ron Smith and Elizabeth “Buffy” Seydel Morgan are the first winners of the Carole Weinstein Prize in Poetry, a \$10,000 prize that will be awarded annually to a poet from Central Virginia who has made significant contributions to poetry. For more information about the Weinstein prize go to <www.weinsteinpoetryprize.com>.

Architecture... of the commonwealth. For instance, drawings from the Charles F. Gillette Collection (Accession 34472) were instrumental in the recreation of the garden at Woodrow Wilson's birthplace, “The Manse,” in Staunton. Likewise, John Neilson's drawings, circa 1821–1825, of the University of Virginia (Accession 36483) aided a student researcher in identifying attributes specific to Neilson. This information helped ascribe to Neilson another set of early campus drawings, quashing the long-held belief that Cordelia Jefferson Randolph executed the plans.

In addition to drawings, the Library of Virginia maintains an extensive assortment of architects' and builders' journals, architectural pattern books, and rare architectural titles. Various catalogs from local building firms and suppliers have also been added to the growing collection by generous donors.

From churches in Waynesboro and Halifax County, to storefronts and school buildings in Norfolk, to miners' housing in Boissevain, the Library of Virginia's collection of architectural drawings and plans runs the gamut of the state's built environment.

The Library welcomes additions to its collection of architectural records. To make a donation please contact Vincent Brooks, senior archivist for architectural records, at 804-225-4452 or <vb Brooks@lva.lib.va.us>.

—submitted by Vincent Brooks,
Collection Management Services

MANSION RENOVATION RESOURCE AVAILABLE

The Library of Virginia is pleased to announce a new resource for researchers interested in the 1999 Governor's Mansion renovation. The Sadler and Whitehead Papers (Accession 41826) contain both paper and electronic records that document the extensive rehabilitation efforts at the home of Virginia's chief executive. Photography was heavily used to record the discoveries made during the demolition and reconstruction phases.

The information can be accessed via the Archives and Manuscripts catalog from the "What We Have" section of the Library's Web site <www.lva.lib.va.us>. Search by the accession number (41826) for the complete catalog record, which contains links to the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) finding aid and searchable database.

Users should read the EAD finding aid, catalog record, and Web pages, all of which explain the origin and arrangement of the collection. The "Information on Searching the Executive Mansion Rehabilitation Project Database" link on the database search page explains the various types of searches available and the results that they produce.

If you have any questions about this new resource or suggestions on ways to make it more useful, please feel free to contact Archives Research Services at <archdesk@lva.lib.va.us> or at 804-692-3888.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY SOIL SURVEY MAPS PRESERVED

The Library of Virginia's collection of early 20th century soil survey materials are being cataloged, preserved, and made safely and easily accessible for the first time.

Part of the Library's Federal Depository Library Program collection, these remarkable materials have been unavailable to all but the most persistent researcher. Published beginning in 1899 as part of the United States Serial Set, and additionally as part of the publications of the United States Department of Agriculture, the *Field Operations of the Bureau of Soils Annual Reports* are remarkable not only for the scientific research of the reports themselves, which document the budding soil conservation movement, but for the unusually beautiful maps that were drawn to accompany individual reports. The series ceased in this format in 1922, after publishing 1,102 maps.

The extremely colorful maps provide detailed information on soil content as well as information useful to genealogists and historians, such as place names, locations of buildings, population densities, extant canals and river channels, and other information that can help the researcher. Many of the maps are based on topographic maps, but others were created solely for the soil survey.

The maps have been stored, folded, in leather boxes for nearly a century. Conservation of the maps is being performed by Etherington Conservation, Inc., in its Library of Virginia facility. Each map is unfolded, flattened, and de-acidified. Maps of Virginia localities and contiguous states are also being encapsulated as an added protection against wear and tear. It takes approximately three months to complete conservation on a set of maps. It could take several years to conserve the entire collection.

Individual Soil Survey Reports are being cataloged by Dorothy T. Harrison, federal documents cataloger. Cataloged reports can be found by searching the Library's online catalog. Maps will be linked to their associated report. Not every report includes a map, but every map has a report. Additionally, not every county or area was surveyed in this early series of reports.

Because the earliest reports are also extremely fragile, we recommend that they be viewed in electronic format by using the Library's subscription to the Lexis-Nexis Congressional database, which includes full text of the Serial Set.

—submitted By Mary S. Clark,
Collection Management Services

COSHRC Now the Council of State Archivists (CoSA)

At its 2005 joint meeting with the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, held in Richmond, Virginia, the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators voted to change the name of the organization to the Council of State Archivists (CoSA). The new, more descriptive name will help the Council with its increasingly visible work in outreach and advocacy. Virginia's state archivist, Conley L. Edwards, serves on the CoSA Board of Directors.

In 1975, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) enacted regulations requiring each state, territory, and the District of Columbia to establish a State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) in order to participate in the NHPRC grant program. Each SHRAB is chaired by the official responsible for the archives of the state or territory. In 1989, the state coordinators formally organized as the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators (COSHRC).

The Council of State Archivists works to ensure that our nation's historical records are valued, preserved, and widely used. The Council articulates the significance of historical records and advocates on their behalf; promotes sound archival practices in identifying, preserving, and accessing historical records; provides leadership to public and private historical records programs; develops practical products that address archival priorities identified by the states and territories; and collaborates with the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and with other organizations that share this mission.

The Council's new name retains links to the old, but provides a more concrete image for non-professionals—an important asset as the group continues its work on the behalf of the nation's documentary records. The name change was effective October 1, 2005. Visit the organization's Web site at <www.statearchivists.org>.

—submitted by Jennifer McDaid,
Archival and Information Services

Brock Collection Microfilm and Online Catalog Are Extraordinary Resources

In August 2002 the Library of Virginia and the Huntington Library of San Marino, California, signed a much-anticipated agreement. Since combining resources, the two research libraries have been hard at work microfilming the Huntington's immense collection of Virginia manuscripts collected a century ago by noted historian, antiquarian, and collector Robert Alonzo Brock (1839–1914). Purchased by Henry Edwards Huntington in 1922, the Brock Collection ranges from the colonial period through the end of the 19th century, with the bulk of the materials dating to the middle years of the 1800s. The collection includes letters, diaries, military and business records, governmental records, church and other organizational records, genealogical research, and Civil War–related materials of every sort, as well as much of Brock's own correspondence as he assembled this amazing assortment of resources.

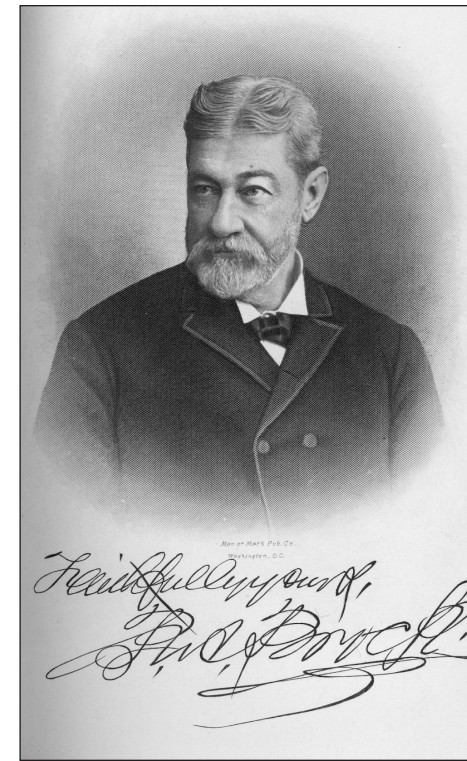
For decades the challenges of distance, the scope and organization of the collection (much of it only partially cataloged), and the procedures for visiting the respected institution all had combined to create a significant pent-up demand for an additional means of access. With the assistance of the Library of Virginia Foundation—including initial funding from the Roller-Bottimore Foundation and the Robins Foundation—work has, after so many years, proceeded at a remarkable pace. Additional funding was provided by the Michigan Chapter Daughters of Founders & Patriots of America.

After a close review by the Huntington Library's curators and conservators, each portion of the Brock Collection is filmed onsite at the Huntington. The film is then shipped to the Online Computer Library Center's Digital Collection and Preservation Services laboratory in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for processing. That initial product serves as the permanent, archival-quality master set for each part of the Brock Collection, to be secured in the Library's State Records Center media vault. The Huntington receives a second copy for its own use. The third and fourth sets are maintained by the Library of Virginia as dual public-service copies—one for the Reading Room and the other always available for Interlibrary Loan. To the great delight of both institutions, the collection is now being made available without any of the once-long-standing restrictions posed by geography or over-demand.

The Brock Collection is divided into two major components—nearly 400 boxes of loose manuscript material and approximately 450 volumes of bound manuscripts. The project's first focus was to complete filming of the unbound materials; that task is now done. Most of the next year will be devoted to the final stage. With luck, the filming portion of the project will be complete by mid-2006.

Filming is simply one step in a complex process. After each sub-collection is reformatted—the 1875–1909 records, for example, of the United Confederate Veterans or a variety of materials (1862–1865) from the 4th Virginia Cavalry Regiment—work moves from the Huntington Library to the Library of Virginia. Each sub-collection reel (or reels) is next carefully analyzed, then the events and participants included in each sub-collection are described in considerable detail. Next, the record is cross-referenced by subject areas (personal names, institutions, events, etc.) to many of the Library's manuscript collections that might further assist researchers. And, finally, the new record is added to the Library's online catalog.

...see [Brock](#), pg. 7



ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS ILLUSTRATE VARIETY OF VIRGINIA STRUCTURES

Virginia has been maintaining architectural records since before Thomas Jefferson put pen to paper designing the Virginia capitol building. Now maintained by the Library of Virginia, the commonwealth's architectural drawings and plans collection encompasses a wide range of structures, from the colossal to the commonplace. A recent survey of the architectural holdings, which include landscape and engineering drawings, tallied more than 59,000 sheets of plans, elevations, sections, and details spanning more than two and a half centuries.

In addition to state structures, the Library's collection includes drawings created for private, organizational, and business entities, as well as Virginia's localities. The collection represents a cross-section of architectural endeavor. Early artisans such as Jefferson and Benjamin Henry Latrobe stand alongside local professionals such as Richmond's Marion J. Dimmock and Norfolk's John Kevan Peebles. Also represented are trailblazers like Ethel Bailey Furman, Harvey Nathaniel Johnson, Charles Thaddeus Russell, and Haigh Jamgochian.

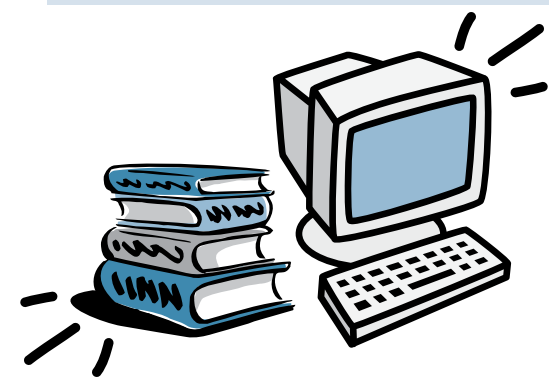
The Library's collection holds a number of drawings for nationally prominent architects, as well. Works by George T. Pearson (Bristol Station, Hotel Roanoke), Robert Mills (Richmond City Hall, 1816), John Eberson (Central National Bank Building and Broad-Grace Arcade, Richmond), Alexander Parris (Executive Mansion), Ammi B. Young (Post Office and Customs House, Richmond), and Robert Young ("Ellerslie," Colonial Heights) enhance the collection.

Countless architectural historians, students, scholars, professionals, and others have found this vast collection valuable for a host of diverse projects. Those researching their historic home or business in Richmond have used the city's Bureau of Permits and Inspections architectural drawings and specifications, 1908-1970 (Accession 30150). This collection, containing more than 36,000 sheets, has also been important to those working on some of the major redevelopment projects in the capital city's downtown area.

The collection of drawings is not limited to the Richmond area. In fact, the holdings cover all regions ...see [Architecture](#), pg. 7

CHECK US OUT ONLINE @ WWW.LVA.LIB.VA





Did you know...?

The next semiannual update of the Virginia Military Dead (VMD) database will occur on or about Veterans Day 2005 as scheduled, and will include for the first time entries from the War of 1812 and the American Revolution. Work on these conflicts started earlier than anticipated thanks to the interest of a library school intern and one of our regular volunteers. Julie Grimes spent part of her summer as an intern searching for and entering data on the War of 1812 and producing a soon-to-be-published bibliography in the “Virginia’s Participation...” series of companions to the VMD database. Grimes is the wife of Mark Fagerburg, the

Library’s photographic and digital imaging manager. Tanja Rhodes, a Library employee in the Circulation department, and a long-time volunteer contributor to the VMD, has moved on from World War II data entry to the American Revolution.

Entries have also been added from the following conflicts: Indian Wars, Dunmore’s War, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. These additions bring the total population of the database to more than 25,000 entries. To view the database go to <<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/mil/vmd/index.asp>>.

FROM THE VIRGINIA AUTHORS ROOM

Helen C. Rountree has been researching, studying, and writing about the culture and history of the first people of eastern Virginia for more than thirty years. An ethnohistorian, she is a professor emerita of anthropology at Old Dominion University. She holds anthropology degrees from the College of William and Mary, the University of Utah, and the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. An advocate for Indian Virginians, Rountree is an honorary member of several descendent Powhatan tribes. She spoke at the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearings on the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2002.

Rountree’s latest book is *Pocahontas, Powhatan, Opechancanough: Three Indian Lives Changed by Jamestown* (2005). The story of the early years of the English colonization of eastern Virginia is told through the lives and perspectives of paramount chief Powhatan, his daughter Pocahontas, and his brother Opechancanough. She readily admits that her attempt to tell the “other side” is daunting since contemporary accounts are rarely sympathetic to the Indians, show little understanding of their culture, nor record their views. In the retelling, the author uses Algonquin/Powhatan terms—native names designate the seasons, eastern Virginia is Tsenacomoco, the English are tassantassa (strangers), and Captain John Smith is Chawnzmit (a conjectural Powhatan pronun-

ciation of his name). Rountree begins by writing about the Powhatan chiefdom, native lifestyles, and ways before the arrival of the tassantassa. Then, she follows the first constrained encounters with the strangers presided over by Powhatan, through the period of tenuous peace culminating in Pocahontas’s marriage to John Rolfe, to the great assaults of 1622 and 1644 under Opechancanough’s rule. Rountree’s maps are helpful in defining the extent of the Powhatan chiefdom, locating the native towns mentioned in the text, and tracing the spread of English-claimed lands.

In 2002, Rountree co-authored with E. Randolph Turner III *Before and After Jamestown: Virginia’s Powhatans and Their Predecessors*. The “popularly oriented book” is a chronological survey of Powhatan culture and history from the late woodland period to their 20th century struggles to reassert themselves. Similar in scope but more in depth is Rountree’s *Pocahontas’s People: The Powhatan Indians of Virginia through Four Centuries* (1990). Preceding this title is *The Powhatan Indians of Virginia: Their Traditional Culture* (1989). Among the aspects of pre-contact Powhatan life that Rountree details are hunting and agriculture, warfare, physical appearance and dress, construction of houses and towns, family and social structure, the role of the chiefs, medicine, and religion.

Rountree has also authored and photo-illustrated a children’s book, *Young*

Pocahontas in the Indian World (1995), and a guidebook, *Beyond the Village: A Colonial Parkway Guide to the Local Indians’ Use of Natural Resources* (1999). Additionally, she has edited *Powhatan Foreign Relations, 1500-1722* (1993), a collection of essays on the interaction of the Powhatan chiefdom with other native peoples and the Europeans. She co-authored with Thomas E. Davidson *Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland* (1997).

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Notable Last Facts: A Compendium of Endings, Conclusions, Terminations and Final Events Throughout History (2005).

If you ever find yourself unable to recall the game in which Wayne Gretzky scored his last NHL point, or perhaps the last documented instance of cannibalism in Fiji, then you may find William Brahms’ *Notable Last Facts* to be quite a useful resource. Brahms’ inspiration for the text began in the early 1990s while a library student at Rutgers University when it became clear to him that, although there were excellent resources that listed famous or notable “firsts,” this wasn’t the case for famous “lasts.” This sparked his imagination, leading to a research project of more than 10 years’ duration that culminated in a well-organized compilation of more than 16,000 “lasts.” Each entry in the text appears

in boldface type and provides a brief description of the category followed by the “lasts” related to it. For example, under the heading Monuments–Statute of Liberty, there is a brief explanation of its creation and arrival in the U.S., followed by the dates for when the last stone of the pedestal was put into place (April 22, 1886), when the last rivet was driven (Oct. 28, 1886, at the dedication ceremony) and the last time the site was known as Bedloe’s Island (Aug. 3, 1956, when President Eisenhower approved a resolution in Congress to change its name to Liberty Island). An expanded table of contents provides an overview of the subjects covered, which include aviation, crime, elections, engineering, movies, nations, railroads, religion, ships, sports, U.S. states, and wars and battles. The text also provides an in-depth bibliography, an extensive index, and a Web Resources section which lists the most useful of the more than 5,000 Web sites that were accessed as part of the fact-checking process. While this collection is enjoyable to browse, it can also be a helpful preliminary step before embarking on a topical literature or Web-based search. To answer the first two items above, Gretzky scored his final NHL point on April 18, 1999, an assist on goal by Brian Leetch at 19:30 of the second period (New York Rangers vs. Pittsburgh). As for the Fiji incident, this occurred in 1867 when a missionary, Rev. Thomas Baker, was eaten after he accidentally touched the chief’s head. His boiled boot is on display in the Fiji Museum in Suva.

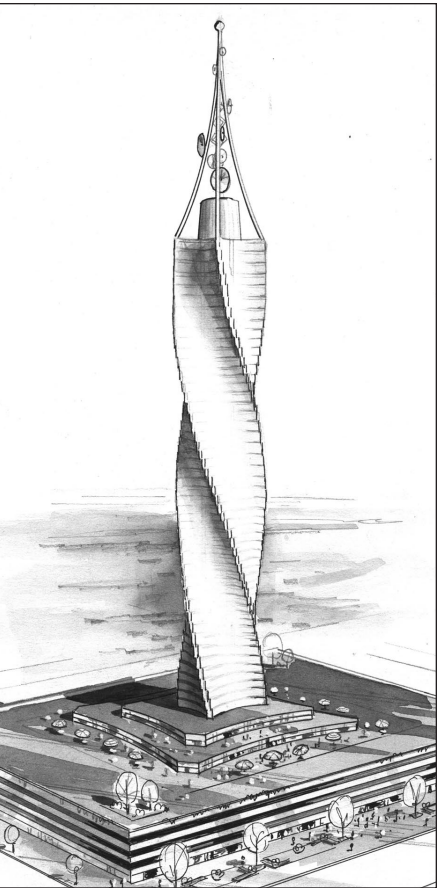


Chicago’s Proposed Skyscraper Not a New Idea

Last summer a story about a proposed spiral skyscraper on Chicago’s lakefront made the national news. To link to the story go to <<http://www.cnn.com/2005/BUSINESS/07/27chicago.spire.reut/index.html>>. The structure, if completed, will be the tallest in the United States.

To prove that there is nothing new under the sun, Vincent Brooks, senior archivist for architectural records, found photos of a strikingly similar design proposed for Richmond in the mid-1980s. Although not as tall, the execution of the spiral design is a near copy. The Spanish architect responsible for Chicago’s design had no idea of Richmond architect Haigh Jamgochian’s plans. Brooks is also certain that the Chicago design does not include “interesting” fire escapes, essentially large tubes for sliding, like the Richmond building.

Jamgochian’s building, originally planned for Midlothian Turnpike, found a potential second home at Canal Street between 8th and 9th streets in Richmond, then the site of a parking lot. Despite city backing, the project could find no financiers due to the shaky business climate following the savings and loan scandal (which, incidentally, was the reason the first site fell through). The proposed site remains a parking lot today.



Descendant of DVB Subject Visits Editorial Offices

Edna Bolling Jacques, of Chappaqua, New York, visited the editorial offices of the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* in the Library of Virginia on August 12, 2005, while she was in Richmond attending the reunion of the Bolling Family Association. A biography of her great grandfather, Samuel P. Bolling (1819–1900), was included in the second volume of the *DVB*, which was published in 2001. Samuel P. Bolling was born into slavery, but he and his brother bought their freedom and the freedom of their mother during the 1850s. A successful businessman in Farmville and owner of more than 1,000 acres of land in Cumberland County, Bolling was elected to the House of Delegates in October 1885 to succeed his son, Phillip S. Bolling. Edna Jacques and the editors shared information and insights gleaned from their separate studies of the Bolling family.